

1565 TRIAL HOME VISITS

Chapter: **Case Management Standards for CP and JJ Field Services**

Section: **Case Management**



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

Policy Directive: **12-09**

Effective Date: **January 2012**

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Approved:

Maggie Bishop, DCYF Director

Related Statute(s): [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 169-C](#), [RSA 169-D](#)

Related Admin Rule(s):

Related Federal Regulation(s): [45 CFR 1356.21](#),

Related Form(s):

Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

A key component to the DCYF practice is the principle that all children belong with their family. In the event that children or youth must be cared for outside of their home, the first plan is that they will return home. Children and youth are transitioned home when they are not in immediate danger, and have the assistance of families, communities, schools, other state agencies, and judicial authorities to prevent the children and youth from re-entering out-of-home care.

Purpose

This policy describes the Division for Children, Youth, and Families' trial home visit practices consistent with Title IV-E (of the Social Security Act) Foster Care Maintenance Payments Program Implementation Requirements 45 CFR 1356.21 (e).

Definitions

"Trial Home Visit" means the period of time (not to exceed 6 months) when children/youth who were previously placed in out of home care through RSA 169-B, C, or D, with a plan of reunification reside with their parent or guardian while post reunification services are provided to the child/youth and family that supports the reunification and addresses all danger factors for the child/youth, family, and community.

"Post Reunification Services" means services that support reunification and address all danger factors for the child/youth, family, and community.

Policy

- I. The goals of trial home visits are to provide support to parents and children/youth throughout the reunification process and to prevent re-entry into out-of-home care.
- II. Legal supervision or custody remains with the Department as the final step in the reunification process for children/youth involved with Child Protective Services.
- III. If the child/youth returns to out-of-home care within the six-month trial home visit period, it is NOT considered a re-entry into foster care. However, after the six-month period (whether the case has closed or not), if the child/youth returns to out-of-home care, it is a re-entry into foster care, and "contrary to welfare" and "reasonable efforts" determinations made by the Circuit Courts' Family or District Divisions must be obtained anew.
- IV. During a trial home visit the family is provided supports and services as needed and described in the family's case plan and/or treatment plan.

- V. If a permanency hearing or a FAIR meeting is due during a trial home visit period, it must be held pursuant to Social Security Act-section 475 (5); 45 CFR 1356.21 (e).
- VI. The CPSW/JPPPO must meet with the child/youth and parents at least once per month to:
 - A. Assess any danger to the child/youth or the community, and their well-being in their parents' or guardians' home;
 - B. Provide needed support to the parents, child/youth, and any siblings; and
 - C. Assess the on-going need for services to address safety and risk factors for the entire family.
- VII. A trial home visit may occur at any point in an out-of-home placement case when a determination has been made by the treatment team, that it is reasonably safe to return a child/youth home with identified reunification services and court oversight.
- VIII. The CPSW or JPPPO may meet with the Permanency Planning Team, prior to beginning a trial home visit for a child/youth, to develop a plan for appropriate supports and services.

Procedures

- I. The CPSW or JPPPO:
 - A. Recommends parent child/youth reunification to the court;
 - B. The CPSW completes safety and risk management tools prior to the child/youth's trial home visit;
 - C. Provides case management services to the family;
 - D. Revises the case plan with the family, as needed, to maintain a child/youth in their own home;
 - E. Authorizes services for a child/youth in their own home to support reunification;
 - F. Assists families to meet their basic needs which could include food, medical care, education, and shelter;
 - G. Informs the Fiscal Specialist when a trial home visit begins and ends;
 - H. Visits with the child and parents at least once per month in the family's home; and
 - I. Facilitates referrals for families to continue services in their community, if needed, after the case is closed.

Document Change Log			
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